



# Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

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2006,

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 23

## ***Guam gets air cargo exemption, Governor Togiola to ask Faleomavaega for help in D.C.***

Governor Togiola Tulafono announced on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, that the Department of Transportation (DOT) published last month its ruling that would allow foreign air carriers to pick up cargo from Guam International Airport for transport between Asia-Pacific and other U.S. destinations.

The cabotage cargo exemption for Guam was granted on August 4<sup>th</sup> for two-years, according to DOT "because it already mirrors what is already allowed for foreign carriers doing business in airports in Hawaii and Alaska."

However, Guam's request for passenger cabotage was denied as it is not permitted at any U.S. location, and such cabotage authority has not been granted by any foreign country to U.S. airlines.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"In regards to the Guam cabotage exemption for air cargo, this is an issue we have asked to discuss for quite sometime, only to be met with extreme resistance from Washington. Congress just gave the nod to Guam, but we did not receive this information until it was passed and approved. Now, we must pursue this first level of cabotage for us because it will help develop our exports such as fisheries with more cargo capacity if approved. If we get approval, business at the airport will increase and air cargo services will be expanded. The Department of Transportation has granted cargo relief to Alaska, Hawaii and now Guam. I believe that they will also see that American Samoa's geographic and economic situation warrants the same type of relief.

I will contact Congressman Faleomavaega and ask that he helps propose this amendment in our favor. We want also to pursue passenger cabotage but I was also informed that this will be even more difficult because of resistance from American carriers. That does not mean we should not try. We need to work together with our Congressman to pursue this agenda in Washington."

## ***Governor Togiola honors SSG Jeffrey Sifoa Loa, an American Samoa hero***

Governor Togiola Tulafono issued the following statement in memory and honor of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Sifoa Loa of Pago Pago, who died on August 18, 2006 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded while he was on foot patrol.

SSG Loa, 32, had been in the U.S. Army for nine years and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Baumholder, Germany.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"SSG Loa is a hero to his family, to American Samoa, and to the United States of America. He was dedicated to preserving the freedom enjoyed by the people of his island home and the nation that he served so valiantly.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and also with all our families who have loved ones away at war. We all are indebted to SSG Loa for his service.

Mary and I send our sincerest condolences to all his loved ones, his father, Mr. Duke Loa, and the families of his mother, the late Vaisa'a Ofoia, and especially his wife Mary, during this difficult time.

American Samoa, our faith, once again, is being tested by Our Heavenly Father in calling Home another one of our brave soldiers while serving to protect the freedom of his fellow citizens. May we rise above this challenge in accepting that God intends His testing to be a blessing that strengthens our faith even more and draws our island home closer to Him.

God bless Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Sifoa Loa. Welcome Home. Ia manuia lau malaga."

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## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On August 26, 1913**, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy issued a directive to establish a nursing school in Tutuila. "For this purpose," he wrote, "two members of the Nurse Corps, United States Navy, will be ordered to Samoa, who together with the Medical Officer of the Navy attached to the Station, will give the necessary instruction."

**On August 26, 2002**, the three Hawaii Marines who were killed in combat in the Vietnam War were honored when three streets at a new housing project at the Kaneohe Bay base were named for them. American Samoan Marine Sergeant Sisifo Faleafine enlisted in 1962, following in the footsteps of his father, who was also a Marine. He was born in American Samoa and later, when his family moved to Honolulu, attended McKinley High School. Faleafine enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1962 and served as an infantryman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

**On August 27, 1891**, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 4," Sogelau Ridge (1 acre, 1 rod, 24 perches: the American flag was raised there on April 17, 1900) and "Parcel No. 5," Mauga-'o-Ali'i (6 acres, 1 rod, 22 perches: the future site of Government House) from William Cooper for the sum of \$1,000.00.

**On August 27, 1942**, the first group of wounded sailors and marines from Guadalcanal arrived at the Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3 ("MOB 3") at Mapusaga, Tutuila. Seabees from the 11th Battalion began constructing more buildings to accommodate the wounded from this fiercely contested battle.

**On August 28, 1941**, the two newly emplaced six-inch guns at Blunts Point, Tutuila, fired eight rounds each at a stationary raft in Pago Pago Harbor.

**On August 28, 1952**, the first course of rudimentary training in legal principles in American Samoa was held in Fagatogo. Sponsored by the Attorney General's Office, the class included "more than 30 Samoan chiefs and young men, who have since become regular members of the class."

**On August 29, 1941**, Pita Fiti (later Tauese) Sunia, American Samoa's third elected governor, was born in American Samoa.

**On August 29, 1942**, Marine Corps wounded arrived at "MOB 3" (The U.S. Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3, at Mapusaga, American Samoa) from Tulagi, Solomon Islands.

**On August 30, 1902**, Captain Uriel Sebree, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, enacted two unnumbered regulations entitled "'Fa'a Samoa' Fines" and "Customs Interfering with Religious Beliefs Prohibited."

**On August 31, 1949**, the Secretaries of the Navy and the Interior submitted a Memorandum of Understanding, regarding the transfer of American Samoa and other U.S. Pacific Territories from Navy to Interior administration, to President Harry S. Truman.

**On August 31, 1976**, "The electorate of American Samoa in an official referendum... voted by 3044 affirmative votes to 1366 negative votes to elect the Governor and Lieutenant Governor by popular vote."

**On September 1, 1912**, the new Samoan Hospital was completed at Malaloa, Tutuila. It consisted of a wooden central administration building which contained an examining room, dispensary, lavatory and dressing room, with an outbuilding for kitchen, baths, latrines and a storeroom. A windmill was erected near the beach to pump water to a 10,000-gallon tank located 60 feet above the level of the main building.

**On September 1, 1935**, the Feleti School for Boys, named after Frederic DuClos ("Feleti") Barstow, was opened at Le'ala, Tutuila, American Samoa.

**On September 3, 1900**, Commander Benjamin F. Tilley issued his "Regulations Nos. 15 and 16: Public Highways in Pago Pago," which established a public highway at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila "from Blunts Point on the southern side of Pago Pago Harbor, toward Observatory Point and around the harbor to Breaker[s] Point on the northern side of the harbor, along the shore at high-water mark of a uniform width of 15 feet distant inland from the shore."

## ASCC Instructors Return from Mainland Extension Classes in Samoan Language and Culture

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

With tears in her eyes, an emotional young Samoan woman, standing before a room in California packed with members of her congregation, exclaimed, "We're hungry to learn about our language and our culture, but we have no one to teach us." Pa'u Faleatua of the Samoan & Pacific Studies Department (SAMPAC) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) still recalls the moment from earlier this summer with amazement. "The young woman's statements made it clear to me how strongly the Samoan communities in the United States want to connect with their homeland."

Pa'u, along with Telei'ai Christian Ausage of the ASCC Samoan Language and Culture Department, spent five weeks this summer on the mainland giving presentations and holding discussions on Samoan language and culture for Samoan church communities in California and Nevada. "We usually spent two days with each church group," Pa'u recalls. "We would divide the group into those who could speak Samoan and those who could not. For those congregation members with no experience speaking Samoan, usually the young people, Telei'ai would use the same methods he does here at the college to explain how the language sounds and the rules of its grammar. Meanwhile, I would be giving a talk to the Samoan speakers on aspects of our culture."

Rev. Oianata'i Matalē of Methodist Church Susana Uesile Tafuna joined Pa'u and Telei'ai for the mainland trip, and assisted in the presentations. "Rev. Oianata'i added a spiritual dimension to our team. He talked to the mainland congregations about the Samoan belief system, and also led them through fun activities like skits and songs." Rev. Oianata'i also appeared on a Samoan television program in Long Beach, illustrating spiritual beliefs through Samoan proverbs, and discussing the meaning of the terms in them.

The Second Congregational Church of Long Beach sponsored the visit by Pa'u and Telei'ai through the artists in residence program of Tafesilafa'i, Inc., an arm of the church that carries the mandate of developing life experiences of Samoans in their own culture and religion. 2006 marks the third year faculty from ASCC have traveled to California under the auspices of Tafesilafa'i. Previous visitors have included the ASCC Choir, under the leadership of Namuluulu Dr. Paul Pouesi in 2003, and master carver Sven Ortquist, accompanied by assistant Patrick Mafo'e, in 2004.

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## ***ASCC Instructors Return from Mainland Extension Classes*** (continued from page 2)

Pa'u had high praise for the hospitality shown by the Samoan congregations he and Ausage spent time with. "The always did their best to make us comfortable," he reflected, "but their receptiveness to the knowledge we had to share really made the journey special for Telei'ai and myself. The older members of the congregations have the passion to educate the younger generation of Samoans on the mainland about their language and culture, but they don't have the teaching experience and the methodologies that we here at ASCC have developed over time. Telei'ai and I did our best to tailor every one of our presentations to the needs of the congregation hosting us, and this could involve anything from teaching basic Samoan words and sentence structure to young people, to answering questions from their matais about matters of protocol and the use of ceremonial language."

While commitments at home prompted Pa'u and Rev. Oianata'i to limit their mainland stay to five weeks, Telei'ai stayed for an additional two weeks to represent ASCC at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Tafesilafa'i Festival. Pa'u had visited the village of Falealupo in Savai'i this past January, at which time High Talking Chief Silialaei of the village presented him with a traditional battle club known as "Tafesilafa'i, which, according to legend, had once belonged to the War Goddess Nafanua. During this summer's Tafesilafa'i Festival, Telei'ai presented this same battle club to Tafesilafa'i, Inc. on behalf of the Board of Higher Education and all of ASCC.

ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i recently received a letter from Tafesilafa'i Board Chairman Rev. Misipouena Tagaloa, in which the Reverend expressed his "heartfelt gratitude" for the services of Pa'u and Telei'ai this summer. "I feel deeply moved at the success of our instructors on the mainland this summer," said the ASCC President. "The College promotes the perpetuation of Samoan language and culture as part of its mission, and it is gratifying to be able to extend our programs to Samoan communities on the mainland. We feel optimistic that we can participate in more exchanges with our Samoan communities overseas in the future."



*ASCC instructors Pa'u Faleatua (left) of SAMPAC and Telei'ai Christian Ausage of the Samoan Language and Culture Department spent five weeks in California this summer giving presentations under the auspices of Tafesilafa'i, Inc. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

## **DRINKING WATER NOTICE LIFTED**

On 28 August 2006, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) collected and tested water from Island Breeze Water Company of Faga'alu. The results from these tests showed the absence of total coliform bacteria. This water meets the American Samoa Drinking Water Standards. The problem that caused the total coliform in the 16 August 2006 sample has been resolved.

For more information, please contact the ASEPA at 633-2304.

## **UA SI'ITIA LE FA'ALIGA MO LE SUAVAI TAUMAFI**

Ua fa'amaonia ua le toe mauaina le siana (total coliform) i le suavai mai le Kamupani Island Breeze i Faga'alu I le aso 28 o Aukuso 2006, sa toe su'esu'e ai e le Ofisa o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (ASEPA) le suavai mai le Kamupani o le Island Breeze i Faga'alu, ma ua fa'amaonia ai ua aunoa ma le siana e ta'ua o le total coliform, e pei ona fa'asalalau atu i ni aso ua mavae. O lea ua talafeagai ma tulaga fa'atapula'aina mo suavai taumafi i Amerika Samoa, ina ua fo'ia le fa'afitauli sa mafua ai ona fa'aleagaina suavai sa su'esu'eina e le ASEPA ia Aukuso 16, 2006.

Moni Fesili fia malamalama i lenei mataupu, faafeso'ota'i mai le Ofisa o le Si'osi'omaga i le telefoni 633-2304.



Tafa Mamea of the University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities at ASCC recently gained the support of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Congressman Faleomavaega's efforts to change the funding status of the UCEDDs in American Samoa and the CNMI. (See article on page 4.) *(Photo courtesy ASCC)*



## CNMI Governor Supports ASCC/UCEED Movement to Include American Samoa and CNMI in US Developmental Disabilities Reauthorization Bill

(Press Release) Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Governor Benigno R. Fitial earlier this month wrote to American Samoa Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, and stated his support of Faleomavaega's intention to work with the authorizing committees in Washington to include American Samoa and the CNMI on the US Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act of 2000 Reauthorization bill. This came after the Coordinator of the University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEED) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), Tafa Mamea, sought the assistance of Faleomavaega regarding the status of the UCEDD with the U.S. Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

In an earlier letter to the Congressman, Mamea informed Faleomavaega that American Samoa and the CNMI are presently not included in the Reauthorization Bill's definition of "State" for purposes of funding. "It is my intention to work with the authorizing committees to include American Samoa and the CNMI on the reauthorization bill," wrote Faleomavaega in response. Realizing the importance and positive impact the Bill would also have for the CNMI if passed, Mamea contacted the Office of the Governor in American Samoa, and CNMI Special Assistant for Disability Policy & Programs, Thomas J. Camacho, to inform them of this new development and request additional support. CNMI Governor Fitial, by copy of his letter to Congressman Faleomavaega, concurrently has sought the assistance of the CNMI Resident Representative to the United States, Pete A. Tenorio, to work with Faleomavaega on this matter. American Samoa Governor Togiola Tulafono has also expressed his support for the inclusion movement and is working closely with the Congressman's Office on this matter.

Throughout the nation, each UCEDD operates under a discretionary grant program authorized by Subtitle D of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Federal funding supports the operation and administration of the UCEDDs that comprise the nationwide system. UCEDDs perform interdisciplinary training, community service, technical assistance, research, and information dissemination activities, as they strive to increase the independence, productivity, and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities.

In the current Developmental Disability Act's Subtitle D, Section 155, the definition of "state" does not include American Samoa or the CNMI, even though a UCEDD already exists in both. The UCEDD in both these US Territories currently operate under the Center on Disability Studies (CDS) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Both American Samoa and CNMI presently receive approximately \$165,000 each per funding cycle from CDS. If the reauthorization bill becomes law with the inclusion of American Samoa and CNMI under the definition of "State," both can apply for the funding to take their respective UCEDD to the next level as full-fledged entities that would stand to receive full federal grants in the amount of \$500,000. Aside from American Samoa and the CNMI, the other U.S. Territories (the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam) have all successfully established a full-fledged UCEDD.

In a CNMI press release, Thomas J. Camacho credited CDS Director Bob Stodden, Ph.D. for providing technical assistance and support for the UCEDDs in American Samoa and CNMI since their inception. "We extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Stodden's role in including American Samoa and CNMI under their center," stated Camacho. "It has been now 18 years since CDS has overseen our center in the CNMI, and I am comfortable and confident that the satellite centers in both Territories are now ready and fully capable of operating their own full-fledged UCEDD."

"On behalf of our citizens with disabilities and their families, we are humbled and grateful of your assistance and support towards improving the quality of life for our citizens," concluded Governor Fitial in his letter to Faleomavaega. Tafaimamao Mamea of the American Samoa UCEDD expressed her own support of Faleomavaega's efforts. "Within the existing legislation, the inclusion of American Samoa and CNMI within the definition of 'state' for funding purposes would enable us to take to a whole new level our activities on behalf of those citizens here with Developmental Disabilities," she said. "Our thoughts and prayers go with Congressman Faleomavaega in this effort."

ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i expressed her support for Faleomavaega's work on behalf of the UCEDDs, and acknowledged the significant assistance the Congressman has continually provided for the College. "Faleomavaega has often enabled ASCC to access federal resources for key programs such as Trades & Technology. I sincerely thank our Congressman for his tireless support of higher education in American Samoa." Dr. Satele-Galea'i further expressed her appreciation for the work Tafa Mamea and her staff have accomplished. "The UCEDD, hosted by ASCC, exists to serve the entire island," said the President. "Tafa and her community advisory groups have done an excellent job in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities through the initiation of partnerships and assurances of appropriate services." Tafa Mamea wished to give particular acknowledgement to Tasi Tuiteleapaga of the Governor's Office. "He was working closely with the Congressman's office in advocating for American Samoa and representing on behalf of the Governor," she said.